



FHWA Environmental Initiatives



Why should ***you*** care about FHWA?

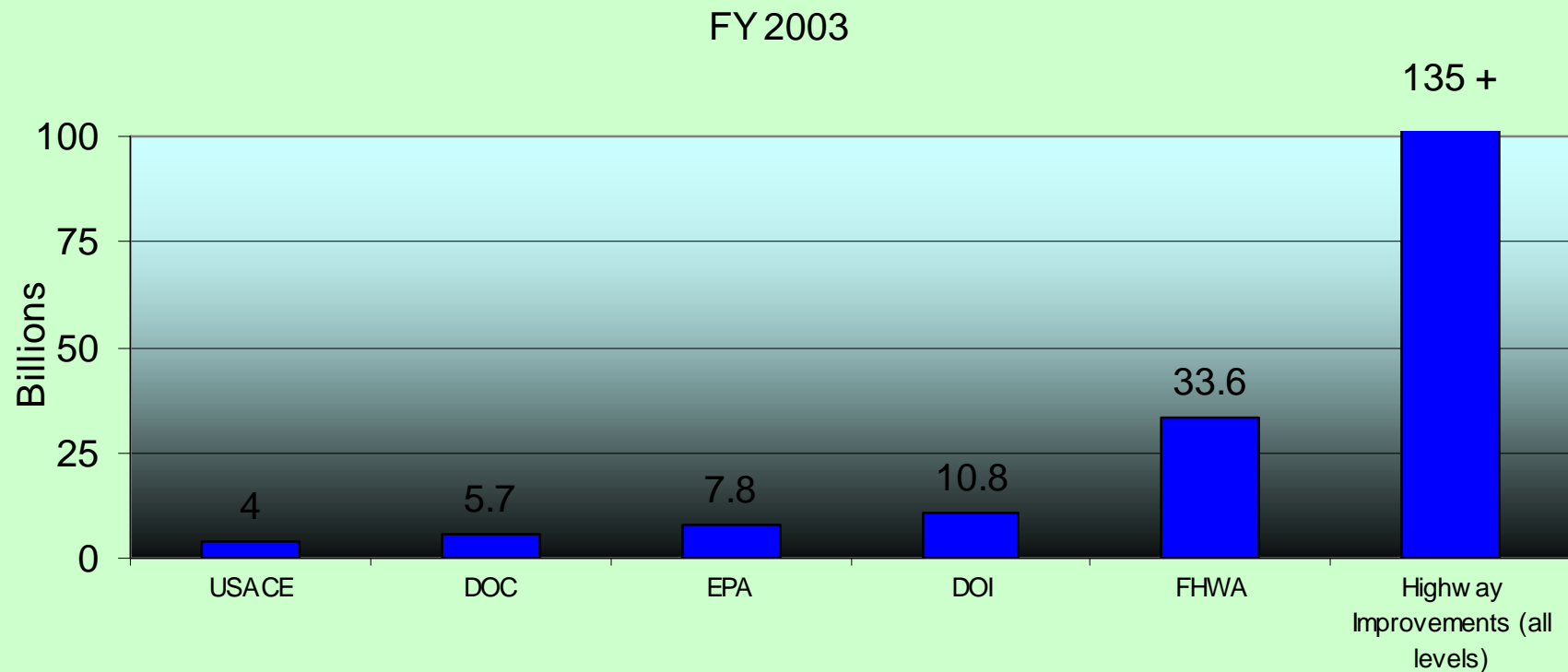
- We have a big program
- We leverage a lot of State & local investment
- We have the potential to do great environmental harm
- We have the potential to do great environmental good

Why did I want to be here?

- To plant some seeds about partnership opportunities
- To learn about your programs and priorities
- To influence you

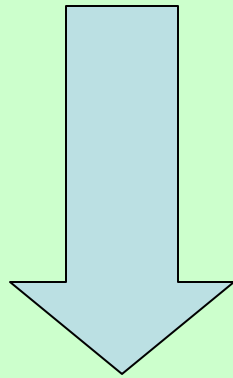
We are not the EVIL Empire

- But we are an Empire...



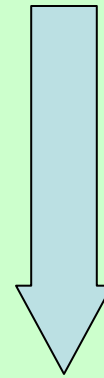
We have two main business lines...

Federal-Aid



\$ 33 Billion

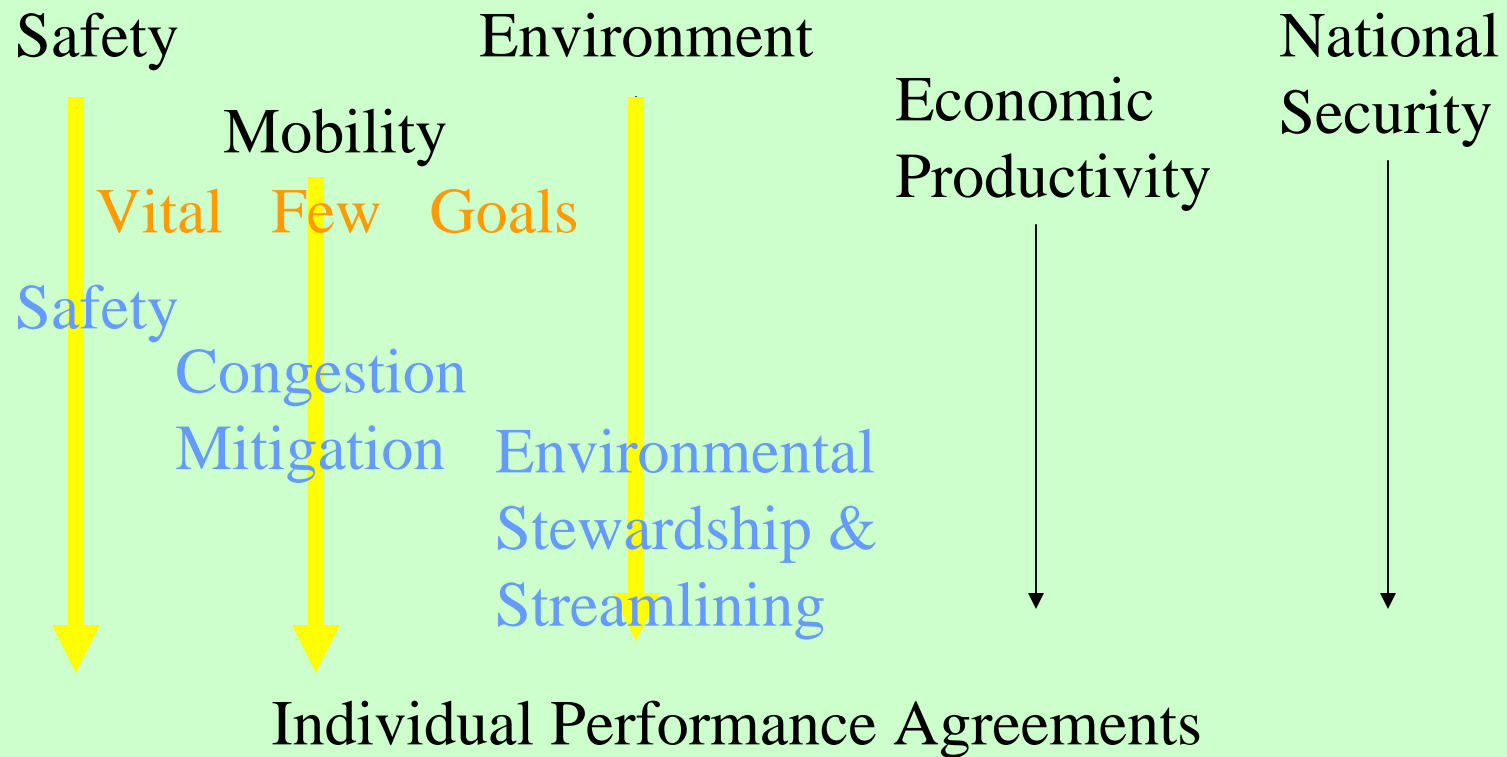
Federal Lands



\$ 800 Million

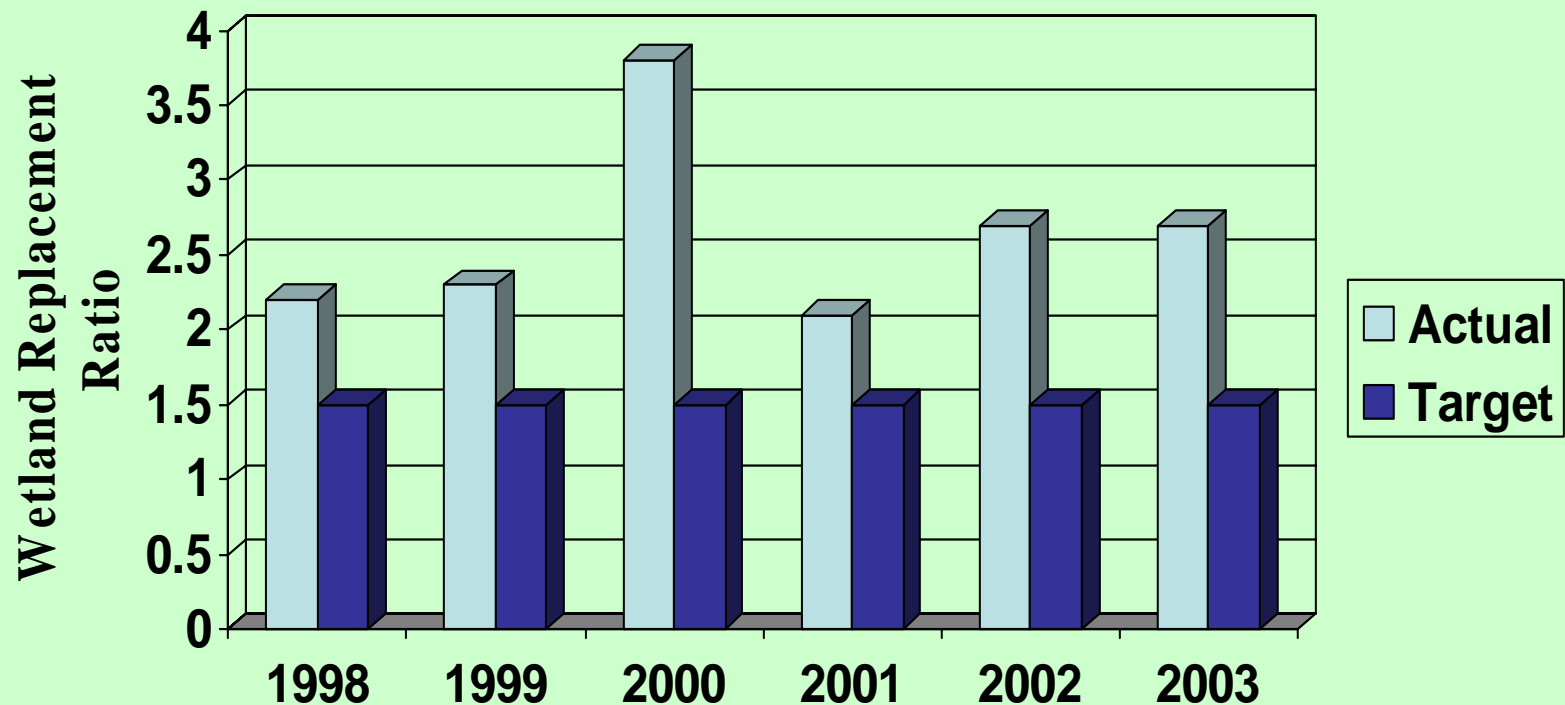


FHWA has made a strategic commitment to the environment...



We are getting real environmental results...

Wetland Mitigation



We are poised to do even more...

VFG: Environmental Stewardship & Environmental Streamlining

- Quality of the Decision-making Process
- Timeliness of the Environmental Review Process
- Demonstrated Environmental Stewardship



Exemplary Ecosystem Initiatives

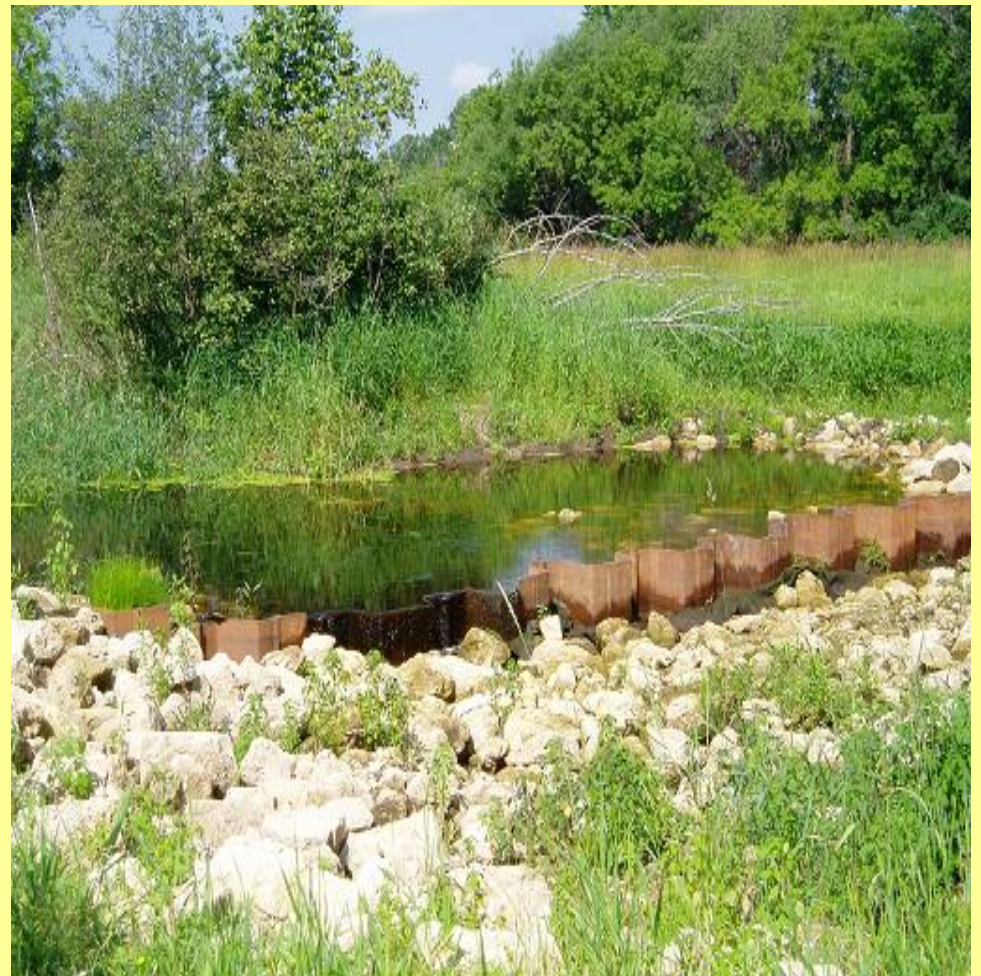
FHWA GOAL

Ecosystem Conservation

30 exemplary ecosystem
initiatives

in at least 20 States or
Federal Lands Highway
divisions

by September 2007





Exemplary Ecosystem Criteria

Helps sustain or restore
natural systems and their
functions and values

Developed within a landscape
context

Uses partnering/collaborative
approaches to advance
common goals

Uses the best available
science in ecosystem
and habitat conservation

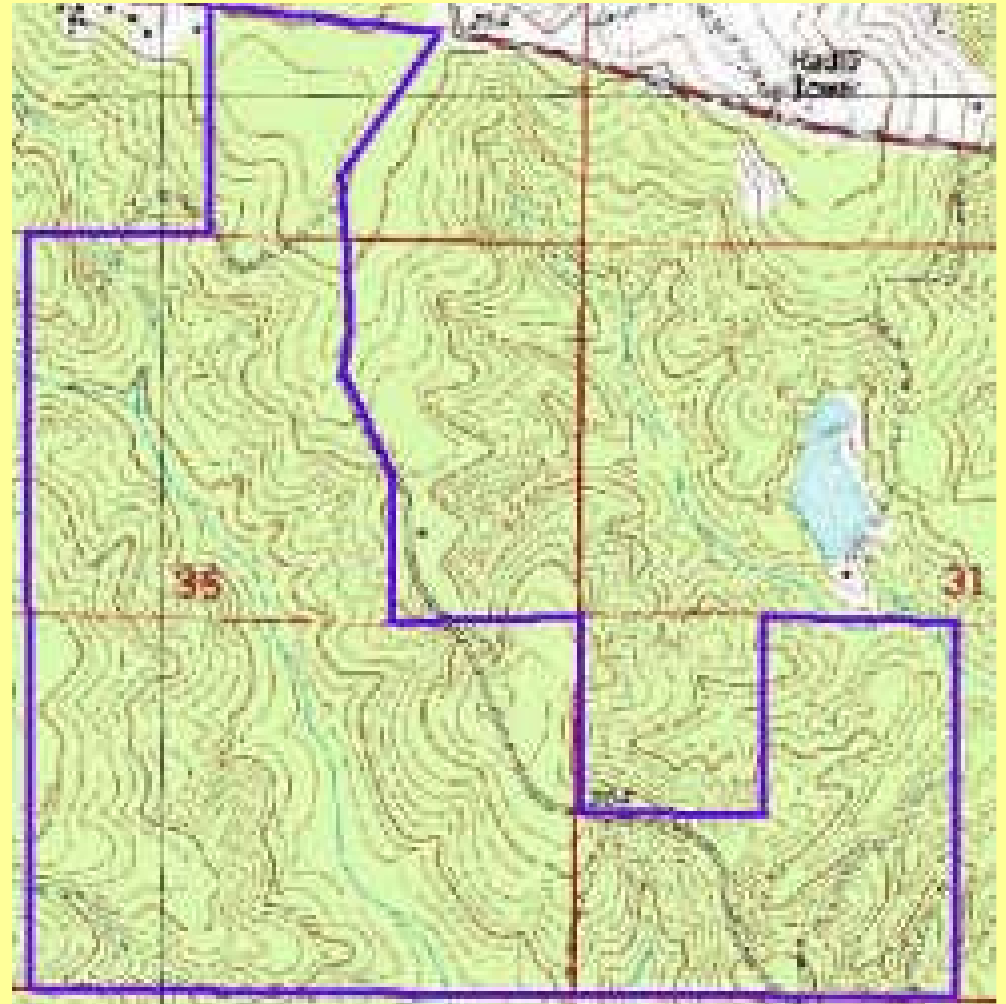
Provides clear examples of
innovative environmental
solutions... and achieves
high standards in the
environmental process.

Achieves high quality results

Recognized by
environmental interests as
being particularly valuable
or noteworthy

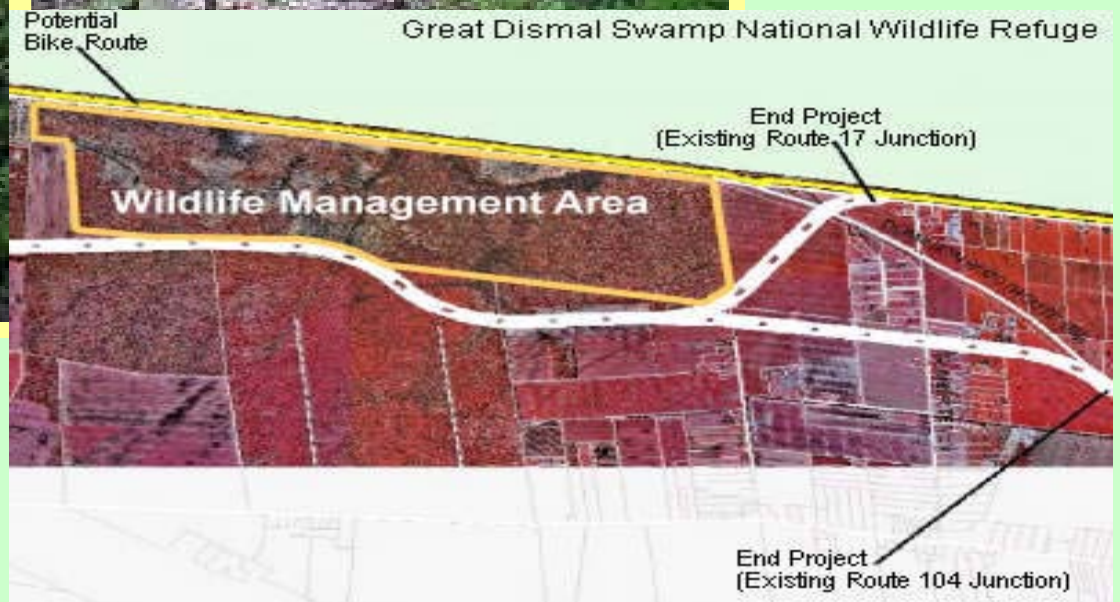


Gopher Tortoise Conservation Area





Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Management Area



LaGrange Wetland Bank



An Exemplary Ecosystem Initiative...



NVDOT's 335-acre Mitigation
Bank

Another Exemplary Ecosystem Approach...



WSDOT's Stormwater Program



Exemplary Ecosystem Initiative

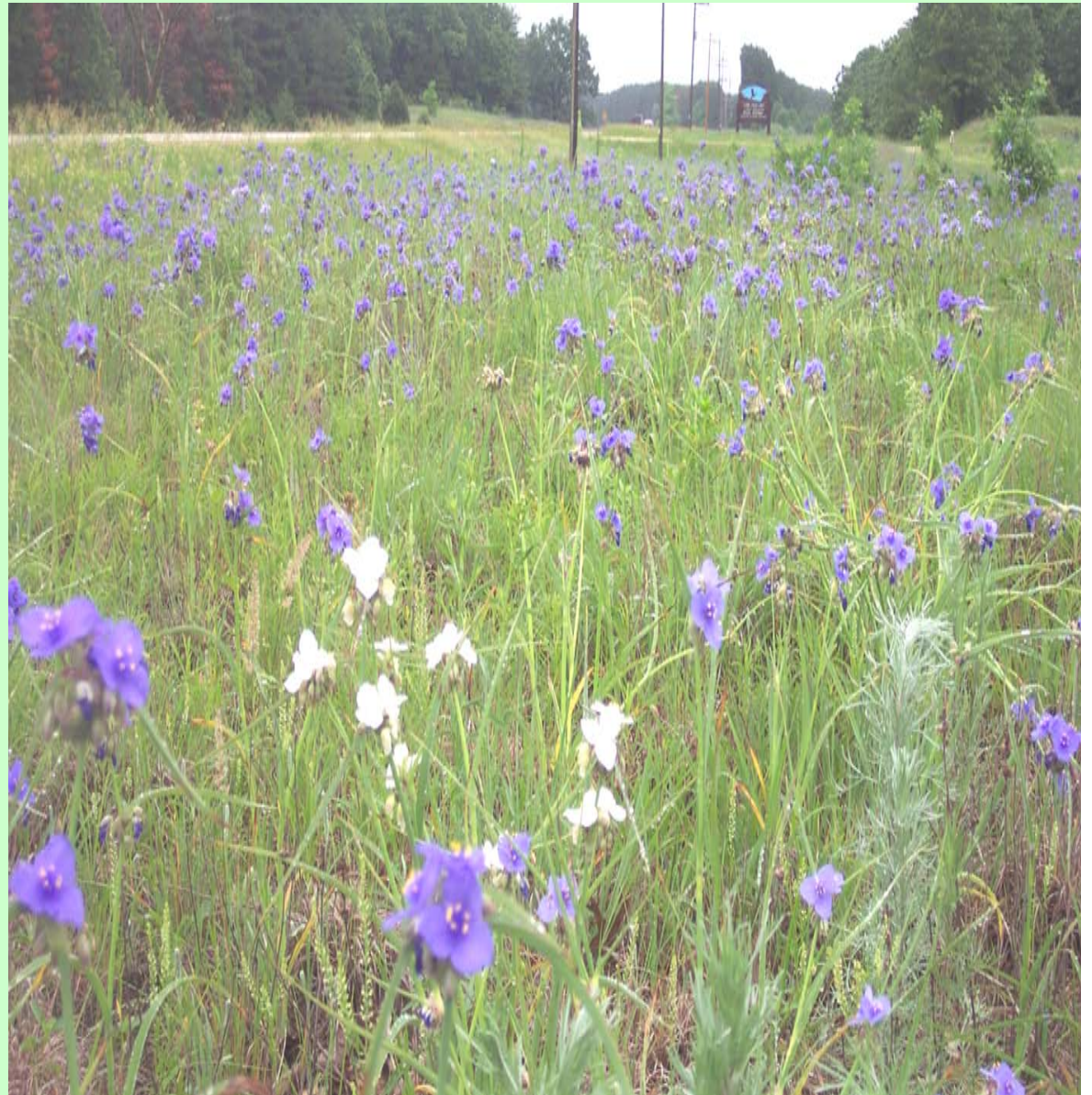
Colorado Shortgrass Prairie



TEA-21

Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century

Establishes a
preference for
mitigation banking
to compensate for
unavoidable
losses to wetlands
and other natural
habitat





TEA-21

Allows cooperation with statewide and regional mitigation efforts :

natural habitat
conservation

mitigation
banks

Habitat
conservation,
restoration
enhancement

conservation
& mitigation
plans

Special Designs
to avoid impacts

Wetland
conservation





23 CFR 777.5 *Federal Participation*

“Those measures which the FHWA and State DOT find appropriate and necessary to mitigate adverse environmental impacts to wetlands and natural habitats...”





23 CFR 777.9 *Mitigation of Impacts*

- a. Actions eligible for Federal funding
 - 1. **Actions to avoid and minimize impacts**
 - 2. **Compensatory mitigation alternatives, inside and outside of the right-of-way**
 - 3. **Improvements to existing wetland and natural habitats**
 - 4. **Mitigation banks**

Historic Bridge
relocated to Ocean
Spray Cranberry
Farm, Tomah, WI





TEA-21 & 23 CFR 777

- Best Mitigation Choice
- Public and Private opportunities





Wetland Mitigation Action Plan



Federal Guidance on the Use of the TEA-21
Preference for Mitigation Banking to fulfill
Mitigation Requirements under Section
404 of the Clean Water Act

July 11, 2003



23 CFR 777.9 *Mitigation of Impacts*

c. Contributions to statewide and regional efforts...

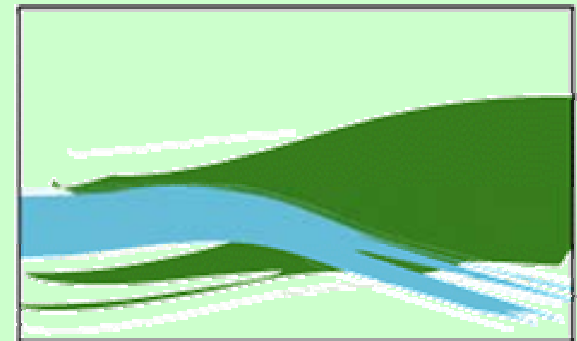
... in advance of project construction only if such efforts are consistent with all applicable requirements of Federal law and regulations and State transportation planning processes



Early Coordination and Planning

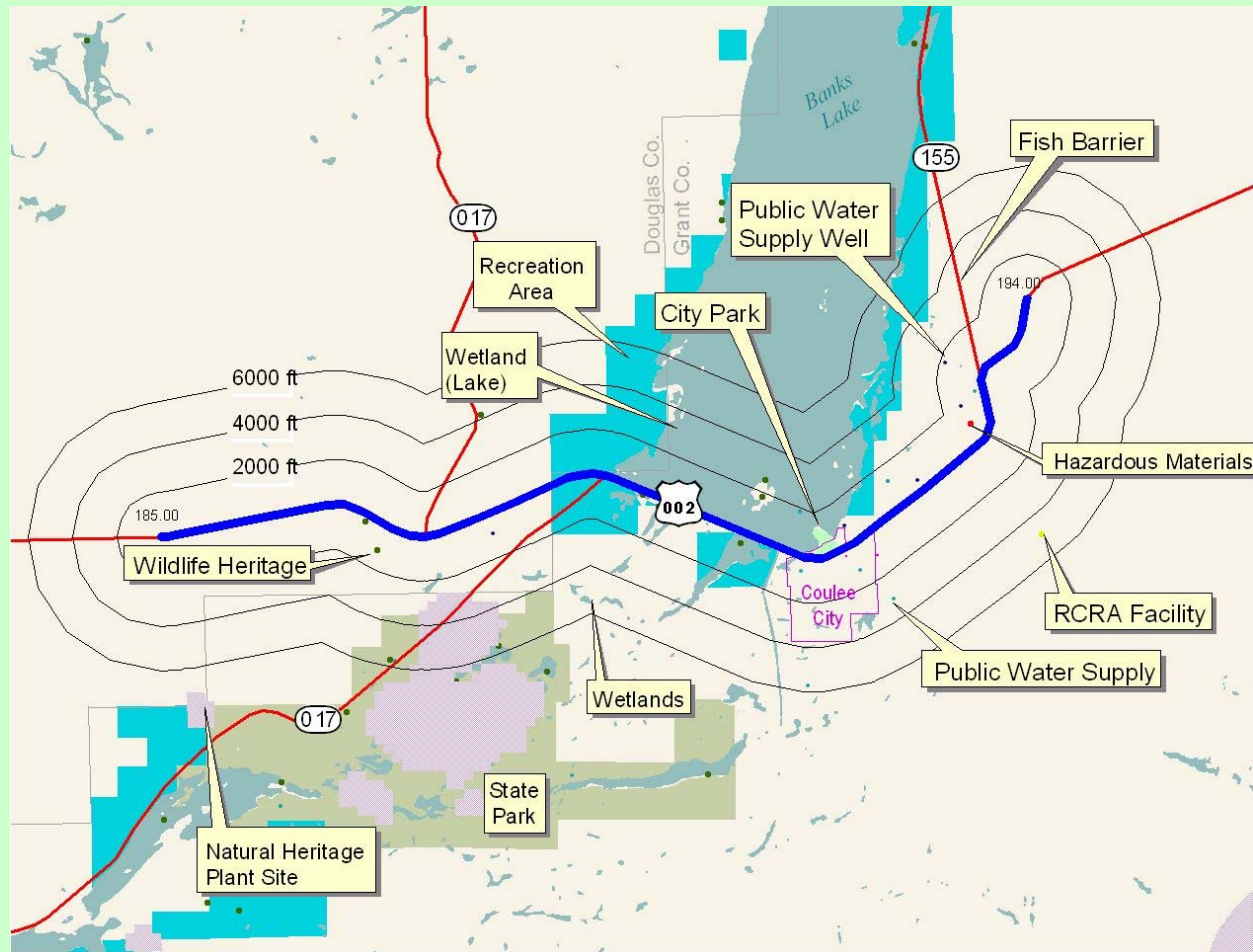
- GIS screening data
 - Natural Resource information
- Best available maps and data
 - All agencies use same data
 - Rapid Assessment methods
- State Conservation Plans
 - Priority mitigation sites
 - Other Site Selection criteria
- Stakeholder Coordination

M·N·R·G





GIS for Environmental Stewardship and Streamlining Workshop





Research

- **State Planning and Research (SP&R)**



- **National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)**

- Wildlife crossings
- Herbicides for Control of Hazardous Vegetation
- Developing Engineering Standards for Historic Road Corridors

The opportunity is in the scale...

From this:



To this:



What is in it for Us?

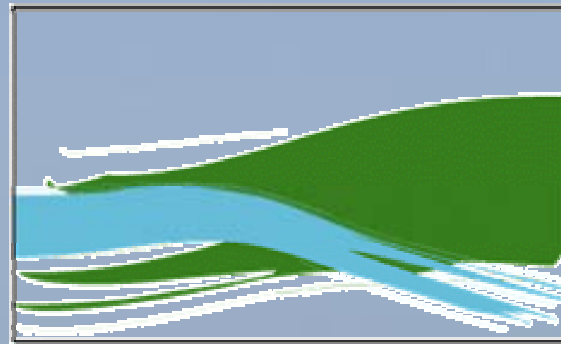
- Streamlined predictable processes
- More cost effective mitigation
- Better environmental results
- Productive partnerships
- Enhanced reputation

What is in it for ^{You}~~Us~~?

- Streamlined predictable processes
- More cost effective mitigation
- Better environmental results
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M·N·R·G



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